(b) whether in the present day situation it has not become necessary to lessen the burden of cost of urea on the farmers;

(c) whether by reducing the fertility of land by the use of chemical fertilizers are we not doing injustice with the future generation; and

(d) the details of reduction in agricultural production, debt on farmers and suicides as a result of it, alongwith the details of constitutional requirement to protect the cows and long term planning for economic advancement of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The country's level of food production cannot be realized through the use of organic nutrient resources alone. Also, there is no definite scientific evidence of decline in soil fertility due-to use of chemical fertilizers. However, organics and balanced and judicious use of fertilizers, which are being encouraged by the Government through appropriate policy initiatives, helps sustain soil health and higher crop productivity and in reducing the burden of nutrient inputs for the farmers. Use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers also helps in improvement of soil-health on a long-term basis. The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 addressed comprehensively the long term issues in the agriculture and allied sectors including agriculture production, farmers' income and animal husbandry.

Shortfall in production of milk in Kerala

1262. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortfall in the production of milk in Kerala compared to the requirement of the State;

(b) if so, whether Central assistance had been given to farmers in dairy sector of Kerala under Capital Venture Fund;

(c) if so, whether above assistance had been limited to non-operational flood area;

(d) if so, the detail including the region of Kerala State covered under above assistance;

(e) whether steps will be taken to extend the above assistance in operational flood area of Kerala since there is a shortfall in milk production;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government of Kerala has reported a shortfall of 7.5 lakh liters per day in milk production compared to the requirement of the State.

(b) to (d) Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 293.17 lakh, in the form of interest-free loan has been provided to the State under the Central sector scheme 'Dairy Venture Capital Fund'. Under this scheme, assistance is limited to non-Operation Flood (O.F) areas only in case of establishment of small dairy farm. However, there is no such restriction in case of other components.

(e) to (g) Evaluation and impact study of the scheme is underway to assess need to revise the guidelines.